

the occasion of their 50th anniversary. This outstanding organization was founded in 1963 with the mission of empowering people around the world to take advantage of economic opportunities and improve quality of life for their families and communities. To this date, ACDI/VOCA continues to fulfill this mission, as they help millions of individuals and families fight their way out of poverty. Their notable accomplishments include contributing to the launch of the Green Revolution in India, strengthening Ethiopian co-ops to bring their coffee into global prominence, and pioneering grassroots financial services across the former Soviet Union. With a staff comprised of 90 percent locally-hired employees, and working through a network of over 3,000 local partner organizations, ACDI/VOCA combines the best in international development expertise with powerful grassroots capacities to implement effective programming that has a real and sustained impact. Congratulations to ACDI/VOCA President and CEO Carl H. Leonard, as well as to the esteemed members of the Board of Directors: Mortimer Neufville (Chairman), Honorable Timothy J. Penny (Vice Chairman), Deborah Atwood, Dr. G.N. Saxena, Charles F. Conner, Kurt M. Ely, Jerry Fenner, Patricia Wilkinson Garamendi, William Harris, James. K. Hoyt, R. Bruce Johnson, and David Cobb. I commend ACDI/VOCA on their history of outstanding service and am confident that they will continue to make a difference in people's lives around the world long into the future.

CONGRATULATING THE TOWN OF
NEWLAND ON THEIR CENTENNIAL

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the centennial of Newland, the highest county seat in the Eastern United States, nestled along the border of Western North Carolina.

In 1911, Newland was named after North Carolina Lieutenant Governor William C. Newland, and simultaneously became the county seat for Avery County.

By March 1913, small businesses were growing and the town began to quickly develop commercially and residentially.

The town of Newland continues to be an important representative of the small-town family values and mountain culture so important to all of us in the western part of the state.

Mr. Speaker, the town of Newland is a beacon for American small business and the free enterprise system. America is a country that rewards earned success, and Newland is an example of that inspiration.

Therefore, I rise today as a Representative for the 11th District of North Carolina to congratulate the town of Newland for its overall steadfastness and perseverance displayed by its citizens.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE
OF AMBASSADOR WILLIAM
KENNARD

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor the distinguished public service of Ambassador William Kennard and recognize his vital role in reinvigorating the deep relationship between the United States and the European Union.

As the first U.S. Ambassador to the European Union to work with the institutions created by the Lisbon treaty, Mr. Kennard was instrumental in strengthening relations between the United States and a rapidly changing European Union. Ambassador Kennard has worked tirelessly to expand the economic dialogue and minimize the regulatory divide between the United States and the European Union, and his efforts were a driving force behind the decision to begin negotiations on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership that will ignite economic growth and create jobs on both sides of the Atlantic. For his work on behalf of United States business interests in Europe, Ambassador Kennard received the prestigious Transatlantic Business Award from the American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union.

Prior to his nomination as U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, Ambassador Kennard served as the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission from 1997 to 2001 where policies he shaped brought the Internet to a majority of U.S. households for the first time. In his time at the FCC, Ambassador Kennard championed programs to bridge the digital divide, such as the e-rate program which brought Internet service to 95 percent of K-12 schools and 58,000 libraries in the United States. Ambassador Kennard's commitment to expanding digital access earned him many accolades, and U.S. News and World Report called him "a consumer champion for the digital age."

Mr. Speaker, as Ambassador Kennard prepares to step down as U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his exemplary public service and wishing him well as he writes the next chapter of his life. His dedication to encouraging dialogue and expanding trade will have a lasting impact on our transatlantic relations.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,738,602,543,527.17. We've added \$6,111,725,494,550.09 to our debt in 4 and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CONGRATULATING THE MAR-
GARET R. PARDEE HOSPITAL ON
THEIR 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate The Margaret R. Pardee Hospital for reaching their 60th Anniversary.

Pardee Hospital has shown outstanding and ongoing contributions and service to the health and well-being of the citizens of Henderson County since 1953.

This is a tremendous milestone for our community hospital. Pardee has served area residents with an outstanding health care facility that is recognized by the nation and throughout North Carolina. Pardee is the second largest employer in Henderson County and is the only hospital in the Carolinas to earn the ISO 9001-2008 certification for quality.

Mr. Speaker, as a Representative for the 11th District of North Carolina, I am grateful for the steadfast commitment to healing and saving the lives of our citizens in Western North Carolina.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAULA
RAPOSA

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Ms. Paula Raposa on the occasion of her retirement.

Ms. Raposa has been a vibrant fixture in her local community for over fifty years. After arriving in Fall River from the island of Sao Miguel in 1960, Ms. Raposa got her start at a factory on Water Street. Six years later, her gift for helping others led her to a job as a teacher's aide with Fall River Public Schools. For the next 12 years, she would serve as a secretary and parental liaison for the school district's bilingual program. Ms. Raposa played a key role in guiding the next generation of Portuguese-speaking immigrants as they became acclimated to life in the United States. She later supported the Women's Center at Bristol Community College as their outreach coordinator.

In 1978, Ms. Raposa began her career with SER—Jobs for Progress as a consultant. She was soon named as the first executive director for SER's Fall River affiliate. Under Ms. Raposa's leadership, the organization proved indispensable in training residents for jobs in the local garment industry and beyond. In 1984, her efforts were recognized by President Reagan through an appointment to the Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship, a federal body devoted to economic development and the advancement of workforce trainees. At that time she was the first woman in over fifty years to be appointed to this prestigious position. SER continues to provide a range of vital services to the community, including business classes, adult English instruction, computer training, and job placement. Alumni of SER's programs have gone on to succeed in a variety of professions.

Following 35 wonderful years at the helm, Ms. Raposa will retire as executive director to spend more time with family, while still remaining active with numerous Fall River institutions. Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Ms. Paula Raposa for over five decades of outstanding service to southeastern Massachusetts. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Ms. Raposa for her countless contributions.

NESQUEHONING HOSE CO. #1

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Nesquehoning Hose Co. #1 of the Borough of Nesquehoning, Pennsylvania.

Nesquehoning Hose Co. #1 was organized in 1908 and originally consisted of 50 members, a 1908 Mack truck, and a horse-drawn hose reel. Beginning in 1911, the fire company was housed at the corner of Center and School streets, also known as "Five Points". By 1930, the organization had grown to include 200 members and several more pieces of firefighting equipment, including a pumper and hose truck and a hook and ladder and chemical truck. In 1997, the company purchased a new building to house their equipment and ambulances.

Nesquehoning Hose Co. #1 has been instrumental in protecting the community from many devastating fires. The organization battled the fire at Heffelfinger Bakery in 1922, the blaze at the parochial school of the Sacred Heart Parish in 1929, the fire at the Kaijaya Pants Company Factory in 1953, and countless home fires throughout the years. The members of this company willingly risk their own safety to assure that the people of Nesquehoning are protected from destructive fires and other disasters.

Mr. Speaker, since 1908 Nesquehoning Hose Co. #1 has worked to protect the citizens of Nesquehoning, Pennsylvania. Therefore, I commend all the personnel who have served at this fire house and congratulate them on their newest piece of equipment, a 2012 KME 103" Aerial Cat Ladder Truck, which will surely aid them in their mission to defend the community from future fires and other disasters.

HONORING E. GORDON GEE UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Dr. E. Gordon Gee upon his retirement as president of The Ohio State University.

Expressing how much President Gee has meant to The Ohio State University and the many students and faculty who have benefitted from his unwavering commitment to higher education is an impossible task. As a graduate of Ohio State, as an admirer and as

a friend of this remarkable person, it gives me great pleasure to add my personal appreciation and commendation.

For over three decades, Dr. Gee has held more university presidencies than any other American. Prior to his resumption of the presidency of Ohio State on October 1, 2007, Gee was chancellor of Vanderbilt University from 2000 to 2007 and president of Brown University from 1998 to 2000, of Ohio State from 1990 to 1998, of the University of Colorado from 1985 to 1990, and of West Virginia University from 1981 to 1985. In 2010 Time magazine rated President Gee one of the top ten college presidents in the United States.

Upon his retirement, Dr. Gee will leave behind a legacy that will permeate throughout Ohio and across the country for years to come. While he is moving on to the next phase in his life, Dr. Gee will never stop doing what he loves: inspiring students and contributing to enhancing the quality of higher education.

On behalf of the citizens of Ohio's 12th Congressional District, I would like to wish Dr. Gee the best of luck and thank him for his devotion to Ohio State, the great state of Ohio and all of the communities that have benefitted from his invaluable contributions.

RECOGNIZING MIDSHIPMAN THIRD CLASS PATRICK LIEN

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to recognize one of our Midshipmen at the United States Naval Academy. On May 20th, 2013, Patrick Lien was the first of his class to reach the top of the Herndon Monument during the legendary "Plebes No More" Ceremony.

Each year the freshman class, known as "plebes" at the Naval Academy, will work together to climb the Herndon Monument, which is a 21-foot tall granite pillar on the service academy's campus, and replace a plebe's "Dixie-Cup" hat with an upperclassman's combination cover at the top. This ceremony is conducted at the end of every academic year to represent the end of a plebe's year as the lowest rank at the Naval Academy. According to the Naval Academy legend, the first plebe to reach the top of the Herndon Monument will be the first in the class to rise to the rank of Admiral. The monument is usually greased with Crisco, which makes it decidedly more difficult for the plebes to accomplish the task. The Class of 2016 was able to accomplish the task in one hour, thirty-two minutes, and forty-three seconds.

Patrick's accomplishment is a testament to his perseverance, and commitment to his fellow Midshipmen. Both of these qualities are crucial components of an effective officer in our armed forces.

As Patrick continues to develop into a future military officer, I would like to thank him for his service to our country and for representing the great people of Central Florida at the prestigious United States Naval Academy. I also wish him well in his future academic, athletic and military pursuits.

The United States Naval Academy is fortunate to have such an outstanding midshipman

at their institution. I applaud Patrick Lien on his continued service at the United States Naval Academy and to the citizens of the United States of America. His commitment to excellence, leadership and service is to be admired, and may it inspire others to follow in his footsteps.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on Thursday, June 20th and missed Roll No. 282. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CELEBRATING VIOLA CONDO

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Viola Condo of West Palm Beach, Florida, who turns 100 years old on July 7, 2013.

Viola immigrated to this country from Italy in 1920, when she was 7 years old, and she has lived in the Sunshine Park Community of West Palm Beach since 1976. A member of Saint Juliana's Parish Church, Viola is active in the community. She still sings with the Church Choir. She has also knitted 526 children's sweaters for World Vision, an organization dedicated to reducing world poverty and hunger.

Viola is truly an exceptional woman whom I am proud to represent in Florida's 22nd District. I know I join with her friends and family in celebrating this wonderful milestone. I wish her good health and continued success in the coming year.

A TRIBUTE TO NORWOOD "WOODY" OLMSTED

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Congressional Liaison Specialist Norwood "Woody" Olmsted. Mr. Olmsted has served his country honorably through his 31 years with the USCIS and will bring his career to a close on June 28, 2013.

Originally a high school music teacher for 18 years, Woody began his career with the Immigration and Naturalization Service as an Immigration Inspector in Maine before being transferred to the Los Angeles International Airport. In Los Angeles he was ultimately promoted to managing the congressional unit for the district office until 1988 when he relocated to our nation's capital.

In his current role, Woody has assisted numerous high-profile and time sensitive requests with a renowned professionalism and